

DRAFT MINUTES
Superintendent's Advisory Committee
Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999
Department of Education Building
1325 J Street, Room 1519
Sacramento, California

November 16, 1999
9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Haertel, Acting Chair; Professor, Stanford University, School of Education

Vicki Barber, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools

Sue Burr, Undersecretary, Office of the Secretary for Education

Rudy Castruita, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools

Holly Covin; Assistant Executive Director, Policy Analysis & Research, CSBA

Leslie DeMersseman, President, California School Boards Association

Kelvin Lee, Superintendent, Dry Creek Joint Elementary School

Cecelia Mansfield, California State PTA*

Sidney Morrison, Principal, Arnold Elementary School/ACSA State President

Dolores Ochoa, Parent, State Parent Advisory Board

Scott Plotkin, Chief Consultant and Staff Director, Senate Education Committee

Tamara Powers, Parent

Ernesto Ruiz, Director, Migrant Education, Region 2, Butte County Office of Education

Shelly Spiegel-Coleman, ESL Consultant, Los Angeles County Office of Education

Rene Townsend, Professor/Consultant, CSU San Marcos, College of Education

Charles Weis, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

Lynn Wilen, Superintendent, Reef Sunset Unified School District

* Newly appointed member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carl Cohn, Co-Chair; Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District

Pat Pineda, Co-Chair; Vice President, Legal, Environmental, and Government Affairs, NUMMI

Sam Araki, Former President, Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space

Eva Baker, Director, Center for the Study of Evaluation, University of California at Los Angeles

Tom Boysen, Senior Vice President, Education, Milken Family Foundation

Mary Alice Callahan, President, Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers

General Davie, Jr., Superintendent, San Juan Unified School District

Patsy Estrellas, Teacher, Norwalk La Mirada School District/California Teachers Association

Bob Friedman, Chief Operations Officer, CSIS

Javier Gonzales, Teacher, Pioneer High School

Jerry Hayward, Director, Policy Analysis for California Education

Janett Humphries, President, SEIU Local 99, Los Angeles Unified School District

Jere Jacobs, Former Assistant Vice President, Pacific Telesis

Lynette Nyaggah, Teacher, Rio Hondo College

Jeff Orlinsky, Teacher, Warren High School

Bill Ouchi, Vice-Dean, Anderson School, University of California at Los Angeles

Irene Sumida, Co-Director, Fenton Avenue Charter School

Rosie Thompson, Business Unit Executive, IBM Global Education

MEMBERS RESIGNED

Eugene Garcia, Dean, Graduate School of Education, University of California Berkeley

Jeanette Morgan, Director, Governmental Affairs, National Semiconductor Corporation

Linda Strickland, Board Member, California School Employees Association

Arnie Ziegler, State Secretary, California State Parent-Teacher Association

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISONS

Marian Bergeson (Absent)

Susan Hammer (Absent)

PRINCIPAL STAFF TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

William Padia, Director, Office of Policy and Evaluation

Pat McCabe, Manager, Education Planning and Information Center

Wendy Harris, Director, Educational Support Networks Division

Call to Order. Mr. Haertel called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m., in the absence of the co-chairs.

Introductions. Mr. Haertel invited the members, staff, and audience to introduce themselves.

II/USP Update. Ms. Covin provided an update on the preceding day's meeting of the II/USP subcommittee. Technical support needs to be provided to school districts with regard to action plans. Guidance as to the nature and extent of local interventions is needed. What will state intervention look like? Criteria may be in order. What types of interventions will we use in different circumstances? This is "not real" yet for school districts. We need to put forward some sense of what we would like to see with respect to intervention.

Wendy Harris updated the members on the reorganization of the CDE's Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch. She is heading a new division that will focus on providing assistance to implement standards in kindergarten through twelve. With regard to intervention, schools need to know sooner rather than later as to what they face.

Mr. Weis. A formula approach to intervention would be of concern. We can't make decisions outside of the local content. We need to explore approaches that have been successful in different settings. We need to recognize that these approaches will change somewhat when applied in different circumstances.

Ms. Covin. It will be difficult to appear (and to be) equitable in treatment without guidelines. The II/USP subcommittee is not bringing forward any specific recommendations at this time.

Mr. Padia. The plan is to keep the II/USP subcommittee going while the remaining issues are worked through.

Mr. Castruita. There is a lot of anxiety among schools that are under the gun. They need assistance. We need to be clear and get the message out quickly as to what they need to do during this next year. There are many questions out there. We need to ramp this up. We need to get the specifics that schools can hook on to. They need direction. What do they do? What does the county do?

Mr. Padia. Setting local indicators would be a good beginning. He went over the II/USP implementation time line, pointing out that interventions are not imminent.

Mr. Castruita. Sample (proposed) action plans would be helpful.

Ms. Spiegel-Coleman. We need to steer away from the quick fix. We need to emphasize the process to develop an action plan.

Mr. Haertel. Local ownership is vital to success.

Ms. Covin. Each action plan must include the district's obligations to the school.

Mr. Plotkin. Senator Alpert will be introducing a spot bill for technical clean-up with regard to the PSAA. She is seeking input on issues to include. We need to work out the bugs in the system. We do not want to re-visit past battles. There will be a joint informational hearing on accountability next Monday. Quite a few speakers are scheduled. The agenda to be out directly.

Mr. Castruita. We would appreciate earlier notifications of II/USP subcommittee meetings.

Review of November State Board meeting. Mr. Haertel reported on the November State Board meeting and the remarks by Governor Gray Davis. He noted the recent resignation of PSAA Advisory Committee member Eugene Garcia. He also mentioned some statistical analyses (to be explained in more detail later in the meeting) that provide support for the action taken by State Board with respect to English learners.

Ms. Spiegel-Coleman requested distribution of certain documents.

Mr. Weis. The Ventura County Office website includes a Power Point presentation on the API, as well as a parent brochure. Everyone is welcome to download and use these materials. Mr. Morrison. These materials are excellent. Ms. Barber. Counties with small schools may want to add to the materials regarding the issue of why small schools will not receive an API number.

Technical Design Group (TDG) Issues. Mr. Haertel discussed the following issues in considerable detail.

- Simulations of the percent of schools achieving five percent growth targets based on 1998 to 1999 figures.
- Simulations of the percent of schools achieving ten percent growth.
- Projected percent of schools with APIs above 800.

These numbers generally seem quite reasonable. There was discussion of why the high school percentage for meeting the 800 target is considerably lower than elementary and middle schools. It is more difficult to catch up quickly at the high school grades. It is harder to show growth. Other thoughts were explored, such as student and teacher buy-in to the assessment.

Mr. Castruita. The STAR may become more meaningful to students when they realize that it is part of their cumulative record.

Mr. Haertel. We need to look closely at the details of the testing instrument. For example, the curriculum in history-social science is not well aligned nationally. Students achieve well in this subject with considerably fewer correct answers than in reading.

Ms. Spiegel-Coleman. We need to be concerned with teachers teaching to the SAT 9 instead of the content standards.

Variables used to determine schools with similar characteristics. The purpose of the API is both to measure growth in achievement and rank schools by decile (absolute performance and absolute growth). We need to examine schools relative to schools with similar characteristics. The statute lists various characteristics for comparison purposes. Comparisons are made against predicted scores. Mr. Haertel reported on the TDG's progress on evaluation of the comparison characteristics. In many cases, the variables tend to be highly correlated with one another, causing some characteristics to be dropped out. If left in, they might have contrary effects. There was considerable discussion.

Ms. Spiegel-Coleman. We need to look at more refined data regarding teacher credentialing.

Mr. Padia. From the public standpoint, we will communicate only that all of these variables were considered in comparisons. We will not provide the level of detail being discussed here. Student mobility

drops out at certain grade spans when arrayed within the constellation of all the other variables. Multi-track year-round schools tend to score lower.

Break. Mr. Haertel called for a break at 10:20 a.m. He reconvened the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Further discussion of variables. Mr. Haertel explained the contributions of the several variables. Socio-economic status is far and away the most significant variable, explaining 67 percent of the variation at the elementary level, 81 percent at middle grades, and 85 percent at high school. The proposal gives the fairest grouping of the variables for purposes of determining comparison schools.

Ms. Spiegel-Coleman. Is there a better way of matching schools for purposes of informing action plan development? There was considerable discussion.

Ms. Powers. The message that SES is so highly correlated with achievement is worrisome. Teachers are likely to say, "I have no control over that factor."

Mr. Castruita. As a practitioner, this is important information to know. There are differences in achievement among low SES schools. There are success stories out there. We need to take a proactive approach, sharing information regarding successful schools.

Mr. Padia. Much can be done informally. It is possible for schools to find like schools by checking their API rankings. They can get information from like schools that are higher achieving.

Mr. Morrison. Schools should not have to do the searching. The state should be heralding the good news; showing lower achieving schools how to improve.

Mr. Padia. The introduction of rewards provides a new incentive for local initiative to improve.

Mr. Castruita. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program created a website with great ideas. Why can't we do that? We need to focus on academic achievement. What is making a difference? Let's take the lead.

Mr. Haertel. Comparison schools will be easily locatable. However, it may be difficult for high achieving schools to know what makes them successful.

Mr. Castruita. The Texas model reinforces good teaching and learning. We need to bring back into the system students who have fallen through the cracks.

Laura Wagner. The "Building Connections" video is now in development. It will share successful ideas for school improvement.

Mr. Haertel. A frustrating statistical fact is that schools that beat the odds (are higher achieving than demographic factors would indicate they should be) rarely repeat a second year. There is a lot of noise in these scores.

Mr. Castruita. Underperforming schools are ready to try new ideas. We need to help them find those ideas. We have a window of opportunity now. Site administrators open to new ideas. We need to take advantage of it.

ELL students taking 1999 SAT 9, Elementary Schools. This document showed growth as a function of English learners' proportional participation. Mr. Haertel pointed out that ELL participation makes little difference in growth, but the effect (of ELL participation) that's there is positive. Schools with high growth in the API have relatively more higher ELL participation. The effect is weak, but it is real. Mr. Lee. A

higher percentage of ELLs in a school creates the opportunity to implement programs that promote higher achievement by these students.

Error Discussion. Mr. Haertel commented on the TDG's work. What are chances that retesting would have produced different results? What fraction succeeded or failed due to the luck of draw rather than real factors? We are working on these questions now. Mr. Padia. There is uncertainty surrounding every score, but we want to ensure that error is minimized. We want to ensure that rewards and sanctions are applied appropriately to the extent reasonably possible.

Ms. Spiegel-Coleman. Is it possible to get copies of press coverage on the API? Mr. Padia. We'll do that. Also, members should send in local press articles to PSAA website. We are referring press calls as appropriate to PSAA members in the local areas covered by each newspaper.

New Subcommittees. Mr. Padia outlined the proposed assignments for new subcommittees beginning in January. We plan to have the January session with subcommittee meetings in the morning to outline the scope of work, then a full Committee meeting in the afternoon. We plan to drop down to one meeting every two months. It may be necessary to have subcommittee meet more often on occasion. Mr. Padia reviewed the time line for the subcommittees. The teacher rewards program is not technically under the PSAA Advisory Committee, but we will seek the group's recommendation as a practical matter to inform State Board.

II/USP Selection Criteria. The selection criteria will depend on legislative action; they could be specified by statute. We may look at comparable schools data. It may be voluntary again. The II/USP subcommittee will meet on the criteria issue if necessary after the Governor's 2000-2001 Budget comes out. The II/USP subcommittee may need to meet before the full Committee in January.

API Subcommittee. The API subcommittee remains, but will meet only as necessary, and will be informed by the work of the TDG.

Future Meeting Schedule. Future meetings of the PSAA Advisory Committee were set as follows (all meeting tentatively planned from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.):

- Tuesday, January 18, 2000
- Monday, March 20, 2000
- Thursday, May 25, 2000
- Wednesday, July 19, 2000
- Thursday, September 28, 2000

The II/USP subcommittee set a tentative date of Thursday, February 17, 2000.

Adjournment. Mr. Haertel adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Geeting

Recording Secretary